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The second meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1918 was held at its office at 1729 New York Avenue, northwest, Washington, D. C. on Monday, September 10, 1917.

The following members were present:

Charles Moore, Chairman;

Thomas Hastings;

Herbert Adams;

J. Alden Weir;

Charles A. Platt;

Wm. Mitchell Kendall.

Colonel William W. Harts, Secretary and Executive Officer of the Commission also was present throughout the meeting.

The Commission was called to order at 9:30 a. m. and immediately proceeded to the business before it.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held on July 13, 1917, and of the committee meeting held on Thursday, August 30, 1917, in New York City, were approved.

2. SELECTION OF A SUCCESSOR TO MR. HASTINGS: At the July meeting the Secretary had reminded the Commission that in accordance with the arrangement made with the President to secure a certain yearly succession in the membership of the Commission and in accordance with an arrangement entered into by the members themselves at the meeting held on March 20, 1914, the resignation of Mr. Hastings as a member was to

be transmitted to the President. Mr. Hastings had sent in his resignation, and, following the usual course, the Commission were now to suggest a successor for appointment by the President. After discussion, an informal ballot was taken. As a result, the Commission decided unanimously to suggest the name of John Russell Pope, of New York City, to fill the vacancy. Mr. Platt was requested to ascertain from Mr. Pope as to whether he would accept the appointment, if tendered, before his name should be submitted to the President.

3. BOTANIC GARDEN REPORT: Colonel Harts stated that he had sent to each member a copy of his preliminary draft of the report on the Botanic Garden problem to be made to the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives. The report was approved subject to such modifications (based on the verbal suggestions made by the members and on Mr. Olmsted's written suggestion) as the Chairman and the Secretary may decide. (See Exhibit "A")

4. "NUNS OF THE BATTLEFIELD" MONUMENT: The Chairman of the House Committee on the Library by letter dated August 17, 1917, requested the Secretary to review with representatives of the Ladies Auxiliary, Ancient Order of Hibernians of America, available sites in the city for a memorial which that association desires to erect in Washington to the memory of nuns who saw service as nurses during the Civil War.

Colonel Harts stated that, after an inspection of a number of sites, the representatives preferred the small triangular reservation

on North B street, immediately to the rear of the Pan-American Union building. The Commission, however, disapproved that site. As an alternative the Commission suggested a location on the small triangular Government reservation at the intersection of Rhode Island Avenue and M street, northwest, facing Connecticut Avenue and immediately across Rhode Island Avenue from St. Matthews Roman Catholic church. After an inspection of this site later in the day, the Commission felt that it would be suitable for a memorial of the type proposed, - namely, a low composition with fountain accessories, - provided Congress is willing to grant permission for its use for this purpose.

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The Chairman was later informed by the sculptor, Mr. Jerome Connor, that he was very much pleased with the last-named location, and that he was sure his clients would be pleased with it too. (See Exhibit "B")

5. DESIGN FOR CALVERT STREET BRIDGE: At the request of the Engineer Commissioner the Commission at 12 o'clock noon inspected the design for the proposed Calvert Street bridge, simplified in accordance with the suggestions made by the Commission at the preceding meeting. Brig. Gen. John G. D. Knight, U. S. A., retired, the Engineer Commissioner, and the District Engineer of Bridges, Mr. McCombs, were present in consultation.

The Commission gave their preliminary approval of the design with the understanding that the working drawings, before being contracted for, be submitted to them for final approval. In their discussion of the design the Commission particularly called attention to the need of

considerable further study in the treatment of the approaches at each end of the structure. (See Exhibit "D")

Colonel Harts had read to the Commission during the morning the following memorandum with regard to an attack on the Commission by the Municipal Architect:

> "Last night (Thursday, September 6, 1917) at the Arts Club dinner, Mr. Snowden Ashford, the Municipal Architect, made a violent attack on the Commission of Fine Arts, because of its interference, as he styled it, with the architecture of the city of Washington. He bitterly resented the intrusion of the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts in municipal architecture, and endeavored to collect as much assistance as possible by soliciting those present to work with him in resisting the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts with regard to municipal architecture, and later implied that he was just beginning to fight, the inference being that he intended to try to abolish the Commission of Fine Arts altogether."

This memorandum was shown General Knight. He requested that the information it contained be submitted to the District Commissioners for their information and such action as they may deem advisable under the circumstances. (See Exhibit "C")

6. NOBLE MEMORIAN IN RAWLINS PARK: Before arriving at the office in the morning, a number of the members had inspected the full-sized plaster model for the Noble Memorial which is being erected in Rawlins Park, and which is to be approved by them before the memorial can be erected.

There were a number of details in the composition which the members felt should be changed, and therefore Mr. Adams was appointed a committee with power to confer with the sculptor, Mr. Paul Bartlett,

and the architect, Mr. Glenn Brown, in regard to this matter. In acting as this committee Mr. Adams may associate with himself any member of the Commission who is available for this purpose.

7. COMMITTEE ON SITES FOR MONUMENTS AND ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS COMMISSION: The Chairman called attention to the necessity of a careful study of the whole District of Columbia for available sites for monuments and memorials that will be proposed for erection in the District, and recommended the appointment of a committee to attend to this matter. He also suggested that as the Public Buildings Commission under the law are to consult the Fine Arts Commission with respect to the work imposed upon them, a committee to act in that connection, as occasion will require, should be in existence. Upon motion, Mr. Moore was appointed a committee of one with power on each one of these subjects, with authority to call in as associates any member or members.

8. MEADE MEMORIAL: After a short interval for lunch the Commission reconvened in the board room and met Mr. Grant Simon, of the firm of Simon and Bassett, architects, of Philadelphia, Pennaylvania. Mr. Simon had prepared the sketches requested of him at the New York meeting on August 30th, showing the relation of the proposed Meade Memorial to the Grant Memorial and the Capitol. An inspection of these sketches satisfied the Commission that the designers of the Meade were on the right track.

9. TREATMENT OF LANDS BETWEEN THE UNION STATION AND THE CAPITOL: Mr. Hastings is engaged by the Superintendent of the Capitol Building and

Grounds in studying the subject of the future treatment of the park areas lying between the Capitol and the Union Station, and at the request of the other members had brought along a number of the studies he had made. Mr. Peirce Anderson, one of the architects of the Union Station and Post Office, was also present with some sketches he had prepared on the same subject at Mr. Woods' request. The Commission went over the situation with Mr. Anderson and Mr. Hastings at some length. The Commission will be kept in touch with the progress of the studies, and the recommendation made for the treatment of these areas.

10. PUBLIC CONVENIENCE STATION, 8TH AND F STREETS: By letter of August 20th the District Commissioners submitted for the advice of the Commission, three water-color sketches of a proposed new Public Convenience Station to be located under the roadway and partly under the sidewalks, in 8th street, northwest, south of F street, at a cost of $20,000.

After an inspection on the ground the Commission felt that to place a structure with such pronounced architectural features in the Eighth street vista from Pennsylvania Avenue to the Patent Office, and in proximity to the Patent Office and the old Post Office building which are fine examples of early monumental architecture, would be a mistake. They suggested that the Convenience Station be placed under the south front of the Patent Office building with entrances at either side, if possible. If, however, it is incumbent upon the District Commissioners to place the Public Convenience Station in the street, the Commission

advised that the entrance to it should be of the simplest character, and the ventilating shaft and balusters should be designed in such a way as not to disturb the architecture of the two buildings adverted to. The Commission also suggested open stairways and no break in the grade of the street. (See Exhibit "E")

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Commission adjourned at 5 p. m. subject to the call of the Chairman.

Approved: Charles Moore

Chairman.

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

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THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,

1729 New York Avenue,

Washington, D. C.

September 18, 1917.

Sir:

In your letter of January 27th last you ask the Commission of Fine Arts for a comprehensive report on the Botanic Garden problem. You call for a discussion of sites within the District of Columbia available for the Botanic Garden itself, and ask what area in the vicinity of the Capitol may be had for a Congress flower garden; together with such facts and figures as will assist your committee in its consideration of this subject. The Commission herewith places before you the information desired by you.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS.

For reasons that will appear, the Botanic Garden must be removed from its present location. Congress, when it located the Grant Memorial in the Garden area, forced the Garden out. Such was the intention of Congress. The action was entirely logical. That space was designed by President Washington and Major L'Enfant as an open approach to the Capitol, and is so shown on the original plan

Exhibit "A"

of the city.* It was proposed at that time that this area should be subject to ornamentation with memorials, fountains and the like, but not shut off by walls and fences. Locating the Botanic Garden in this area was one of those serious mistakes made in the early part of the century whereby the great plan for the nation's capital suffered damage that has continued to this day. The location of the Grant Memorial was the first step towards repairing this damage. The subsequent location of the Meade Memorial in the same area is a further advance in the restoration of the original plan.

In furtherance of its purpose to restore the Mall to its original status as a park connection between the legislative and executive departments, Congress paid the Pennsylvania Railroad $1,500,000 to remove its tracks from the Mall. The public plaza or square on the west front of the Capitol grounds is a feature of this large plan. The new National Museum building, the Agricultural Department buildings, and the gallery for the Freer collections, all have been located with reference to the general plan. Slowly but steadily changes in conformity with that plan are now being carried out throughout the entire two and a half miles from the Capitol grounds even to the Lincoln Memorial. The removal of the Botanic Garden is essential to the development of the great composition.

If Congress desires to continue a garden for the purpose of obtaining flowers for its members and for growing shrubs to disseminate

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throughout the country, both of these purposes can be subserved quite as well by glass houses and gardens in other accessible locations.

The proposition to extend the present Garden into the Mall to the west of its present location would be the perpetuation of an unfortunate condition of affairs which Congress has taken steps to end. Such an extension means continued confusion. Today in a fenced-in area of less than twelve acres there are, first, the memorial to General Grant, the base of which is arranged as a reviewing stand, and therefore requires an open space; second, the very large Bartholdi fountain; and third, large greenhouses with shining high glass roofs, dominating and disturbing the appearance of both fountain and monument. In addition a residence for the superintendent and other like buildings are found in this enclosure. To all these will shortly be added the large memorial to General Meade, contributed by the State of Pennsylvania. This array of incongruous structures is absurd, confusing and wholly impossible for a permanent establishment.

Congress may readily bring order out of the present chaos by the removal of the iron fence and opening the entire area to the public; by removing the glass houses and superintendent's quarters to a new location and by transferring the fountain to another section of the District.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GARDEN.

The establishment of the Botanic Garden and its relation to the Joint Committee on the Library was the outgrowth of the Wilkes

Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842. The Naval Appropriation act of May 14, 1836, authorized the President to send a surveying and exploring expedition to the Pacific Ocean and the South Seas in Government vessels. Congress granted $100,000 and authorized the use of any other moneys in the control of the Navy Department, not exceeding an expenditure of $150,000. After numerous delays the expedition, consisting of six Government ships under Lieutenant Charles Wilkes, U. S. N., sailed from Hampton Roads August 18, 1838. The expedition returned to New York June 10, 1842, bring a large collection of natural history specimens.

On August 26, 1842, the Committee on the Library requested Lieutenant Wilkes to prepare a narrative of his voyage, and appointed the naturalist of the expedition "to arrange and class the various objects of natural history", later appropriating $20,000 for this purpose. The horticulturist and assistant botanist of the expedition were charged with the duty of preserving the horticultural and botanical specimens. These objects were for a time on exhibition at the Patent Office building, but later were removed to other places.*

In May, 1850, Congress appropriated $5,000 for a new greenhouse and the removal thereto of the plants of the exploring expedition, and during the same month the present site, upon which the new greenhouse

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*Up to 1852 sums amounting in all to $156,753 were appropriated for the salary of the scientific corps, caring for the collection and for preparing and publishing the works on the expedition. From 1844 to 1875 a series of appropriations for greenhouse and garden construction amounted to about $114,861 additional.

was built, was selected by the Joint Committee on the Library. This ground was thereafter commonly known as the "Botanic Garden", but the term was not officially applied to the location until August 18, 1856, when its maintenance was specifically placed under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library.

From 1851 to the present time approximately $387,977 has been appropriated for repairs and equipment of buildings and grounds. From 1857 to the present time there has been appropriated for trees, seeds, fertilizer, &c. approximately $228,550, and for salaries and labor from 1843 to 1916 approximately $426,607 more. Expense of lighting is included in that of the Capitol from 1876 to the present time. The total expenditure on the gardens from about 1842 to 1917, including the original appropriation for the expedition, amounts to about $1,416,748. The present structures and equipment are antiquated and inadequate for a real botanical garden. Most of that which has value can be removed.

THE NEED OF A REAL BOTANIC GARDEN.

When comparison is made with the gardens of other cities and countries, the fact is disclosed that the United States Government has no real botanic garden in Washington. The present so-called Botanic Garden does not compare favorably even with gardens established in other cities in this country. The name is a misnomer. The Garden was conceived in 1836 by broadminded and farseeing men. It was begun by the employment of Government vessels, and a large appropriation for those days. The work was handled by a body of scientists. This garden, so wisely and adequately begun, now serves mainly as a distributor of plants

and flowers.

The present area of the entire establishment devoted to both Botanic Garden display and propagating purposes for Congressional use is 13.64 acres. Of this 12.35 acres are included in the fenced area and 1.29 lie south of Maryland Avenue. Of the section lying south of Maryland Avenue a number of stables covering .137 acres are used for other purposes, and need not be included. Of the area within the enclosure 1.15 acres only are covered by palm houses and other structures, while the remainder of 11.35 acres is used for out-door display; this latter area has been diminished considerably by the location of the Grant Memorial, and when the construction of the Meade Memorial is begun, the available space will be still further decreased.

The famous Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew occupy 253 acres, of which 178 are devoted to the arboretum and 75 to gardens engaged principally in economic and taxonomic work. The 24 colonial botanical gardens of the British Empire are closely associated and identified with Kew. These associated gardens have opened up new industries in the British Colonies, thus creating an increased demand for capital and labor; have introduced quinine, cocoa and rubber from South American countries to colonies where it was theretofore unknown in culture, and tea into South Africa where it had not been previously grown; and in many other ways have repaid a thousandfold by vastly increasing the trade of the Empire. This work became so pronounced as to have interested the German Empire to such an extent that Bismarck paid a special visit to Kew to

ascertain just what influence this garden was having on the commerce of the British Empire. In this country economic work is done by the Agricultural Department, from whose activities those of a botanic garden should be distinctly separated.

Berlin has 1,325 acres in its botanic garde, which was established at a cost of $4,000,000. Paris has 75 acres, Edinburgh has 58 acres, Glasgow 49 acres, Petrograd 54 acres, and Rio de Janeiro has 2,000 acres. In the Appendix will be found descriptions of botanic gardens in various parts of the world. These gardens all are a source of pleasure as well of profit to the nations in which they are located. Harvard University has given to the city of Boston the 253 acres comprised in the Arnold Arboretum, the maintenance of the roads being paid by the city and the teaching facilities being retained by the University. St. Louis has 60 acres in its Shaw Gardens. New York has 400 acres. Pittsburgh and some other cities have botanic gardens in connection with their park systems.

REMOVAL OF THE PRESENT GARDEN WILL BENEFIT THE PUBLIC.

The removal of the Botanic Garden by no means implies that the public which now enjoys the present garden is to be left without such enjoyment in the immediate neighborhood of the Capitol. The enlargement of the Capitol grounds on the north affords an area for gardens of great beauty and distinction, through which will pass all visitors to Washington and a large proportion of those persons who daily go to the Capitol and the Library of Congress. The present Botanic Garden

is seen by an insignificant fraction of visitors or residents. The contemplated Congress Gardens will be a feature of the city and will take their place among the means of daily enjoyment by all who approach Capitol Hill. The removal of the garden features from the west side of the Capitol to the north side simply makes such features more available than they now are.

ALTERNATIVE SITE FOR TEMPORARY RELOCATION OF GARDEN.

If Congress desires to find a temporary location to accommodate the propagating structures and equipment lying within the fenced-in enclosure, comprising the palm house, the superintendent's quarters, and some glass houses, (which in themselves cover an area of about 1.15 acres) there is available for their accommodation an old canal space, Government-owned, of about 2.66 acres at Second Street and New Jersey Avenue, between M and N streets, southeast. The space immediately adjoining it on the north at Second Street between M and L Streets, of about .79 acres, is also available. Thus an area double the size of that now in use is available without land cost.

A REAL BOTANIC GARDEN.

The problem is only half solved when provision is made for flowers for members of Congress and for the present limited output of shrubs and cuttings. There is a demand for a real Botanic Garden in which the public may examine living specimens of the enormous varieties of trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants native to this locality

or capable of being grown here, freely, out of doors. These plants should be classified, and the public should be made free of the grounds for recreation and study. The people not only get direct enjoyment but also they benefit by reason of the help in making selection of trees, shrubs, and other plants for home grounds and for street planting.

A large area is required to grow well-developed specimens of the different kinds of trees which are native to the District alone, to say nothing of showing the very different aspects of those trees when grouped as in a wood, and when grown singly as lawn or street trees. The great numbers of native shrubs, the equally important and interesting trees and shrubs which have been introduced and will be introduced from all over the world, requires an outlying area running into some hundreds of acres. It presents a wholly different problem from that of a place limited primarily to the exhibition of garden flowers in the usual sense of the term. It calls not only for a large tract of land, but for one of diversified soil and varied exposure.*

SITES FOR AN ADEQUATE BOTANIC GARDEN.

An exhaustive search has been made of areas available for garden

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purposes in the District of Columbia. The Commission has sought a location on which a botanic garden might be established with such area and such diversity of soils as would enable it to take rank as a great institution. Examinations were made of tracts at Rock Creek Park, Brightwood, Foundry Branch, Mount Hamilton, on the eastern side of the Anacostia River and in Virginia.

ROCK CREEK PARK: Of the sites suggested, the one at the head of Rock Creek Park is given first consideration, because it has frequently been mentioned as available at no cost for land.

The entire park comprises 1,606 acres, most of which is in steep wooded hillsides.

If Rock Creek Park shall be given up as a park and used solely for a National Botanic Garden and Arboretum, much can be said in favor of this area, in spite of the preponderance of excessively steep slopes. There are scattered areas of moderate slopes on the uplands and strips of level land subject to overflow in the bottom of the valley. There is a considerable variety of soils and exposures, and if every piece of land in the park physically adaptable to botanic garden purposes were to be regarded as available for such use, the total area would be ample. It is a serious practical objection, however, that the most available areas are so scattered and so separated from each other by deep ravines and steep hills as to make the layout and administration of a great botanic garden and arboretum on this site inconvenient and in the long run unduly costly.

Again, it is not possible to disregard the value of the land for other purposes. Congress did not authorize the acquirement of Rock Creek Park simply in pursuance of a general theory that a growing capital city ought to have a large general reserve of land available for public recreation and for kindred uses, to be "improved" and made available from time to time as the need for various specific uses might become apparent.

The land was bought because the valley of Rock Creek within the District of Columbia had certain peculiar and extraordinary characteristics which gave it a special value for one particular purpose, a value unattainable elsewhere, a value which would be destroyed if Congress did not act to preserve it, a value which if faithfully preserved would give incalculable enjoyment and healthful recreation to the people of the District in future generations. This special value was and is dependent on the peculiar beauty of the natural scenery of Rock Creek Valley.

This is not the place to attempt any analysis of that beauty, but clearly it has its own distinctive qualities; very precious; very easily destroyed. It was primarily those qualities which justified the acquirement of the park and nothing ought to be permitted within its borders that will tend to subordinate or sacrifice them.

The character of the native vegetation is one of the important factors in making this scenery what it is. In places the woods had been cleared before the park was acquired, the location of these clear-

ings being wholly accidental as far as concerns their effect on the landscape. Some of these openings, left as simple green fields, are an advantage to the scenery. Others might better be restored in time to a woodland condition, but that woodland should be absolutely harmonious with the native forest.

If the attempt shall be made to create an arboretum here, even without the glittering glass-houses and formal beds of a complete botanic garden, conflicts of purpose are certain to arise which will defeat in a measure the original purpose of Rock Creek Park. It is essential in any arboretum or botanical park worthy of the name to introduce many plants which not only are not native of the locality but which produce effects radically different from those which make the Rock Creek scenery what it is.

The danger is strikingly illustrated for any one who has an appreciation of the qualities of natural landscape by the planting which has actually been done on certain open lands in Rock Creek Park with the purpose of creating an arboretum. This planting, it is understood, was done by the Forestry Service under permission from the Board of Control of Rock Creek Park. It can be seen near Camp Good Will. It does not now, and it never will, look like a part of the natural scenery. It is distinctly out of harmony with it. The sort of thing that has here been done on an open field is liable to be done almost anywhere in the park if the purpose of creating a varied botanical collection is placed side by side with that of preserving the natural scenery as one of the prime objects of the park.

A National Botanic Garden, Arboretum or Botanical Park worthy of the United States Government can never be created unless those in charge are enthusiastically devoted to its special purposes and ready to serve those purposes at the expense of the peculiarities of the local natural scenery whenever the two purposes unavoidably conflict. If the Botanic Garden is established in Rock Creek Park the inevitable result will be the gradual frittering away of a priceless and self-consistent piece of natural scenery.

It is not necessary to express an opinion as to whether the purposes of a National Botanic Garden are more or less important than those for which Rock Creek was acquired. The point is that both purposes cannot dominate the management of one piece of ground without conflict, and this piece of ground was set apart by Congress for the preservation of its natural scenery. If the original intention of Congress in this instance is to be observed, the introduction of such a foreign element as a botanic garden is too dangerous to be ventured. Therefore, the use of Rock Creek Park for this purpose cannot be recommended.

THE MOUNT HAMILTON SITE: The Mount Hamilton site is situated between the Bladensburg Road and the new Anacostia reclamation project, just south of the National Training School for Boys. The larger hill itself is shown on the park plan of 1901 as a desirable addition to the park system. It is now privately owned. It has three round-top peaks immediately adjacent to the Bladensburg Road which in themselves cover

about 80 acres; nearly all wooded, mostly with oaks in good condition. The eastern slope of the hill has an outcrop of yellow sand which supports a vigorous growth of pine. The hill itself is of a heavier gravel soil. Immediately north of this hill there is a comparatively level area extending to Hickey Road, which is of rich farming soil. Connecting these two areas with the National Training School for Boys is another small hill, densely wooded, whose precipitous sides drop abruptly to the bank of the Anacostia River.

The tract fronts on the Anacostia River for a distance of about 9,000 feet, and carries a large variety of soils in such condition that very little preparation for the uses of a botanic garden would be needed. Little grading other than that required for roads is required. It has north, south, east and west slopes, and the level area between the hill and Hickey Road would work out well for greenhouses and herbaceous gardens; while the other areas would be ideal for shrub and small flowering-tree arboretum uses, especially as the northern and southeastern slopes of the hill form two amphitheaters which would display such exhibits on a large scale. An examination of the soil has been made by the Department of Agriculture and its report may be found in the Appendix. Briefly summarized, the investigation by that Department indicates that it will be possible to grow plants of even the most exacting soil requirements, the diverse types of soil affording almost every variation which can be secured in this section of the country. According to this report

practically any plant which can thrive in this climate can be grown in this area.

The whole area contains about 483 acres. About 83 acres of it is to be acquired for the Anacostia Park reclamation so that only about 400 acres need to be considered for purchase in connection with this project. It is on the main highway line between Baltimore and Washington. The Lincoln Highway, with little difficulty, could be brought along the shores of the Anacostia Park and thence by way of Maryland Avenue to the Capitol building, affording an entrance to Washington of unequalled beauty. As to accessibility, there is already an electric car line along the Bladensburg Road, and the junction of the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio railroads is only about 2,000 feet away, while the Pennsylvania Railroad is about 800 feet from the excellent possible sites for the greenhouses and the herbaceous garden.

For extension of the gardens the Anacostia Park is available. That portion of the park between the Pennsylvania Railroad and Benning Bridge contains about 563 acres, lowland and water, thus furnishing ample opportunity for expansion on land not subject to overflow for lowland and fresh water exhibits.

If in the future there should be added to this area that portion of the Anacostia Park between Benning Bridge and the Pennsylvania Bridge, there would be an addition of another 390 acres, including land and water, which could be used in connection with the proposed garden. This extension into the Anacostia Water Park would afford unlimited opportunity for beautiful aquatic gardens, with all the possibilities this implies.

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It will thus be seen that by extension into the Anacostia Park, this undertaking that has been begun purely as a necessary sanitary measure, can be made to so serve the nation doubly, thus paying large dividends on the capital invested. At the Assessor's valuation, according to the latest available data, the cost of the 400 acres in this tract would amount to $221,468.00, which is at the rate of $553.67 per acre.

In point of physical availability, excellence of exposure, accessibility, distribution of essential parts and capacity for enlargement without increase of cost after the initial purchase, the Mount Hamilton location stands out preeminent among all the sites that have been examined. Here both the Botanic Garden and the Congress propagating gardens can be adequately accommodated permanently without conflicting in any way with the city's development. On the contrary, they could contribute their important share harmoniously and effectively to the upbuilding of the Nation's Capital.

The Mount Hamilton tract, by reason of its location and topography, has been recommended in the plans for the development of the city as desirable in any event for park purposes and ultimately should be acquired. It affords vistas over the city comparable with those from the famous Pincian Hill over the city of Rome. Should Congress decide to retain the Congress Gardens in the vicinity of the Capitol, the Botanic Garden and Arboretum ought in any case to be established at Mount Hamilton.

SUMMARY OF COSTS.

Comparative valuation of the three principal sites suggested for use as a Botanic Garden.

Location	Acres	Assessor's Valuation	Av. Cost per acre.	Remarks
Mt. Hamilton, Northeast	400	$221,488.00	$553.67	(Reached by the Bladensburg Electric line. (Joins Anacostia River development and has (eastern, western, southern and northern (exposure. Can expand in Anacostia Park (to produce garden of over 1400 acres.
Brightwood, * Northeast,	312	$185,885.00	$595.00	(B. & O. R. R. Metropolitan Branch. Has (all exposures. Cannot expand in the (future except at cost of additional (purchase.
Foundry Branch, * Northeast	189	$197,912.00	$1,047	(Wisconsin Avenue Electrics. East, west (and south exposures. Cannot expand in (the future except at cost of additional (purchase.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Commission of Fine Arts recommends:

First, that the Mount Hamilton tract be acquired for a National Botanic Garden and Arboretum. By purchasing 400 acres of land, at least 800 acres of Government-owned lands will be made available. Also a park entrance to the city from the north will be provided.

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Second, that the public features of the present Botanic Garden be transferred from the west side of the Capitol to the north side and to lands already owned by the Government. Also that the propagating gardens be accommodated temporarily on the James Creek Canal spaces owned by the Government, which spaces are of double the extent of the area now in use. Ultimately those features should become part of the new botanic garden.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(Signed) Wm. W. Harts,

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. James L. Slayden,

Chairman, Committee on the Library,

House of Representatives, U. S.

- COPY -

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

1729 New York Avenue,

Washington, D.C.

September 13, 1917.

My dear Mr. Slayden:

As suggested in your letter of August 17th last, I reviewed with Mrs. Ellen Ryan Jolly and Mr. Jerome Connor several sites that might be suitable for a memorial such as they propose to the memory of the nuns who saw service as nurses during the Civil War.

A site at a small triangular reservation on North B street, immediately to the rear of the Pan-American Union building which they seemed to favor was disapproved by the Commission of Fine Arts when I submitted the matter to them for their consideration. As an alternative the Commission suggested a location on the small triangular Government reservation at the intersection of Rhode Island Avenue and M street, NW., facing Connecticut Avenue and immediately across Rhode Island Avenue from St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church. The Commission felt that this site would be suitable for a memorial of the type proposed, - a low composition with fountain accessories, - provided Congress is willing to grant permission for its use for this purpose, and so informed the sculptor, Mr. Connor. This latter site was acceptable to the sculptor.

Very truly, yours,

(Signed) Wm. W. Harts,

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. James L. Slayden,

Chairman, The Committee on the Library

of the House of Representatives, U. S.

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Exhibit "3"

The Commission of Fine Arts

1729 New York Avenue,

Washington, D.C.

September 13, 1917.

My dear Mr. Clayden:

As suggested in your letter of August 17th last, I reviewed with Mrs. Ellen Dyer Jolly and Mr. Jerome Sawyer several sites that might be suitable for a memorial such as they propose to the memory of the boys who gave service or suffered during the Civil War.

A site at a small triangular reservation on North 3 street, immediately to the rear of the Pennsylvania Union Building which they seemed to favor was disapproved by the Commission of Fine Arts when I submitted the matter to them for their consideration. As an alternative the Commission suggested a location on the small triangular Government reservation at the intersection of those tplaced Avenue and M street, NW., facing Connecticut Avenue and immediately across that Island Avenue from St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church. The Commission felt that this site would be suitable for a memorial of the type proposed, - a low composition with fountain accessories, - provided Congress is willing to grant permission for its use for this purpose, and to informed the sculptor, Mr. Donnel. This latter site was acceptable to the sculptor.

Very truly, Yours,

(Signed) Wm. H Mertz.

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. James L. Clayden,

Chairman, The Committee on the Library

of the House of Representatives, U. S.

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THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

1729 New York Avenue,

Washington, D.C.

September 17, 1917.

Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts direct me to transmit to you the following memorandum which was laid before me, as their Secretary, on the morning of Friday, September seventh last:

" Last night (Thursday, September 6, 1917) at the Arts Club dinner, Mr. Snowden Ashford, the Municipal Architect, made a violent attack on the Commission of Fine Arts because of its interference, as he styled it, with the architecture of the city of Washington. He bitterly resented the intrusion of the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts in municipal architecture, and endeavored to collect as much assistance as possible by soliciting those present to work with him in resisting the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts with regard to municipal architecture, and later implied that he was just beginning to fight, the inference being that he intended to try to abolish the Commission of Fine Arts altogether."

In this connection I desire to call the attention of your Board to the following facts:

The national Commission of Fine Arts was created by specific act of Congress on May 17, 1910. The membership comprises men who stand preeminent in their respective professions in this country today,

Exhibit "C"

experts who through unselfish motives and patriotic principles are, without personal compensation or gain, devoting their valuable time, experience and skill to the betterment of the Capital City. The Commission has certain prescribed duties to perform under the organic act, which were subsequently enlarged by several Executive Orders of the President so as to secure the benefit of the advice of the members of the Commission with respect to all new public structures and works of art.

On November 3, 1910, the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia addressed the following letter to the Commission:

> "The District of Columbia constructs annually public buildings costing in excess of five hundred thousand dollars, including school-buildings, fire-engine houses, public convenience stations, and the like.
>
> At present about two-thirds of the buildings are designed by the Municipal Architect and one-third by architects in private practice. The latter are selected by vote of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and, for reasons of economy and direct cooperation, the choice has been limited to Washington architects in order that the plans may be prepared "under the supervision" of the Municipal Architect, as required by law.
>
> The Commissioners of the District of Columbia are aware of the fact that the Act approved May 17, 1910, creating the Commission of Fine Arts, contemplated that its attention should be directed toward Government buildings, monuments, and statues only, but inasmuch as the municipal structures must add to or detract from the appearance of the city, the Commissioners have the honor to request the Commission's advice and criticism on plans for municipal structures, and would sincerely appreciate any services of this character which the Commission may feel able to render.
>
> It occurs to the Commissioners that some plan might be worked out whereby preliminary drawings showing elevations of proposed buildings might be passed upon by your body before the plans are prepared in detail. Any suggestions as to procedure which your Commission may make will doubtless be agreeable to us.

In the event that the Commission assents to this request of the Commissioners, they will probably desire to submit some plans of municipal structures for the consideration of the Commission at its early convenience."

The Commission replied that they would gladly cooperate with the Commissioners of the District of Columbia in the duties suggested in their letter.

On November 28, 1913, the President issued an Executive Order that plans for new structures to be erected in the District of Columbia under the direction of the Federal Government which affect in any important way the appearance of the city, and questions involving matters of art with which the Federal Government is concerned are to be submitted to the Commission for comment and advice. In order that this Executive Order might apply equally to such projects under the District Commissioners as under the Executive Departments, the President directed me to notify the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia of his particular desire that they consult the Commission of Fine Arts respecting structures and other projects in contemplation under the District Government which may affect in any important way the appearance of the city. This was for the purpose that Municipal and Federal projects might harmonize with each other in the progressive development of the National Capital. Again the Commissioners of the District of Columbia gladly signified their intention to cooperate to the fullest extent.

In view of the above, the Commission are surprised that an employee of the District Government should take it upon himself publicly to criticise in such a manner the work and duties of the Commission. The statements by the Municipal Architect have been verified from other sources, and, as the attack was made in a public meeting by Mr. Ashford as the Municipal Architect and an employee of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, the Commission feel constrained to take official notice of it and have directed me to refer it to your Board for your information and such action as you may deem advisable under the circumstances.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Wm. W. Harts,

Colonel, U1 S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

The Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

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THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

1729 New York Avenue,

Washington, D. C.

September 12, 1917.

General:

In accordance with your request of September sixth last, the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting held on September 10th gave careful consideration to the simplified design for the proposed Calvert street bridge. The Commission gave their preliminary approval of the study with the understanding that the working drawings, before being finally contracted for, be submitted to them for final approval. The Commission invite your attention again to their suggestions made to you during the consideration of the design that the approaches at each end of the structure require considerable further study to obviate the objections pointed out to you at the meeting.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(Signed) Wm. W. Harts,

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Brig. Gen. John G. D. Knight, U. S. A., retired,
Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia.

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Exhibit D.

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THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

1729 New York Avenue,

Washington, D. C.

September 12, 1917.

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By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(Signed) Wm. W. Harts,

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Brig. Gen. John G. D. Knight, U. S. A., retired,

Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia.

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69

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

1729 New York Avenue,

Washington, D. C.

September 15, 1917.

Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts regrets the necessity of a public comfort station directly in front of the Patent Office on Eighth street, northwest, and would prefer to have such a convenience station under the south front of that building with entrances at either side if possible.

The Patent Office and the old Post Office building, now occupied by the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, are two examples of early monumental architecture that still command attention and respect for the simplicity and dignity of their design. On this account no structure having architectural features should be placed in connection with those buildings. If it is absolutely necessary to place the public convenience station in the street, the entrance to it should be of the simplest character, and the ventilating shaft should be designed in such a way as not to disturb the architecture of the buildings. The Commission prefers open stairways, and no break in the grade of the street. The structure proposed would prove inharmonious and unduly expensive, and its disapproval is recommended.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(Signed) Wm. W. Harts,

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

The Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

Exhibit E.

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63

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

1729 New York Avenue,

Washington, D. C.

September 15, 1917.

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By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(Signed) Wm. W. Harts,

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

The Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

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